

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 HUD-02 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSF-02 NSAE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15
INT-05 CEA-01 EA-12 FRB-01 NEA-11 OPIC-06 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 HEW-06 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 EPAE-00 /154 W
-----052704 021654Z /64

O 021633Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2515

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USOECD

FOR GLASOE/OES, DAMERON EUR/RPE, PASS HUD INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJ: U.S. URBAN CONCERNS INITIATIVE FOR OECD

REF: (A) PARIS 11340, (B) STATE 074431

1. SUMMARY. AGENDA FOR COUNCIL MEETING FOR JUNE 6TH
INCLUDES URBAN CONCERNS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCENARIO
OF REF (A) PARA 3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CONSISTS
OF U.S. PAPER C(78)50 DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES
LATE MARCH REF (B) AND COUNCIL NOTE C(78)101
DATED 31 MAY WHICH IS SUMMARIZED BELOW. LATTER
PAPER BEING HAND CARRIED TO OES AND EUR/RPE BY
GANLEY AND DAMERON RESPECTIVELY. AMBASSADOR WILL
MAKE STATEMENT URGING CREATION OF AD HOC GROUP PER
VANCE PROPOSAL AT 1977 MINISTERIAL AND WILL SUPPORT
COUNCIL NOTE, WITH ONE MINOR RESERVATION DESCRIBED
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BELOW. IF WASHINGTON HAS ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR
AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS, PLEASE TRANSMIT TO REACH
MISSION BY COB JUNE 5. END SUMMARY.

2. COUNCIL NOTE C(78)101 DESCRIBES INCREASING AT-
TENTION OF GOVERNMENTS TO URBAN PROBLEMS IN RECENT
YEARS AND THE GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITH THE

QUALITY OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEMANDS FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT. DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN MEMBER COUNTRIES IS FELT TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSAL REFLECTS THESE COMMON PREOCCUPATIONS.

3. THE U.S. PAPER C(78)50 ELABORATES ON THE VANCE PROPOSAL AND RECOGNIZES THE RELEVANCE OF URBAN ISSUES WITHIN A NUMBER OF CURRENT OECD ACTIVITIES, SO THAT ANY MORE COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BUILD ON RELATED WORK WITHIN OECD. WHAT WE NEED THEREFORE IS NOT NEW SECTORAL WORK, BUT AN INTEGRATED APPROACH FOCUSING ON CONCERNS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS.

4. THE U.S. PAPER PRESENTS VALID REASONS FOR A BROADER ACTION PROGRAM ON URBAN CONCERNS IN OECD. THE RESPONSE WILL DEPEND ON INTEREST OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER WORK. RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST EXPLORATORY PHASE (WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP) WOULD BE MODEST. 100,000 FF HAS ALREADY BEEN SET ASIDE FOR POSSIBLE USE IN 1978 BUDGET. ANY SUBSEQUENT WORK PROPOSED TO THE COUNCIL AFTER EXPLORATORY PHASE WOULD NEED APPROPRIATE FUNDING.
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5. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SUGGEST ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES TO PERFORM A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM, BUT OECD OFFERS A WIDE ARRAY OF OPTIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE AD HOC GROUP WILL RECOMMEND A SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR COUNCIL DECISION.

6. COUNCIL NOTE THEN DESCRIBES THE PROPOSED AD HOC GROUP, TO BE CHAIRED, BY A DEPUTY SEC GEN, AND ITS TASKS: (A) IDENTIFY MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING OECD COUNTRIES AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED, AND (B) PREPARE A DRAFT ACTION PROGRAM WITH PRIORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OECD. EACH INTERESTED MEMBER

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COUNTRY SHOULD NAME ONE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GROUP.

7. THE AD HOC GROUP WILL REPORT TO COUNCIL BY
30 APRIL 1979, AFTER "TWO OR THREE" MEETINGS. MIS-
SION INTENDS TO POINT OUT THAT THE AD HOC GROUP IT-
SELF SHOULD DECIDE HOW MANY MEETINGS IT WILL HOLD.

8. THEN FOLLOWS A COUNCIL DRAFT ENTRY FOR ITS
MINUTES THAT NOTES C(78)50 AND C(78)1U1 AND DECIDES
TO CONVENE A HIGH LEVEL AD HOC WP ON URBAN CONCERNS
UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF A DEPUTY SEC GEN TO REVIEW
MATTERS SET OUT IN U.S. PAPER.

9. ANNEX CONSISTS OF HELPFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE
LISTING OF SOME TWENTY ODD OECD PROJECTS THAT
INVOLVE URBAN ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAN-
DATES OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF OECD.

10. ACTION: IDEAS FOR INCLUSION IN AMBASSADOR'S
STATEMENT AT JUNE 6 COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD BE RE-
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CEIVED BY COB JUNE 5.
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